



SEN/D Appropriate Music Games and Activities

- **‘DON’T CLAP/PLAY THIS ONE BACK’**
The leader claps/plays a short rhythmic pattern and then the children/YP clap/play this back. When they leader claps/plays the ‘Don’t clap/play this one back’ rhythm (demonstrated at the start of the game), the children/YP don’t clap. The child/YP who claps/plays everything correctly is the winner.
- **‘THE CONDUCTOR SAYS’** (i.e. ‘Simon Says’)
Give the children / YP instructions to play sounds on their instruments (e.g. play a G, play a short sound, play the lowest note on the keyboard etc). They should only play when they hear the words ‘The Conductor Says’ at the beginning of the instruction.
- **‘ANIMAL SOUND ACTIVITY’**
The children/YP improvise for a short time, imitating the sound on their instruments that a particular animal would make e.g. a mouse – high fast notes, an elephant – low heavy/slow notes, a frog/monkey – notes moving around to imitate jumping. Other children / YP then try to guess the different animal. This can be extended by including another animal (eg. a cat chasing a mouse / bird) to create a short story.
- **‘FOLLOW THE CONDUCTOR’**
Can include clapping, stretching, wing-flapping using the arms etc, so it doesn’t have to just be limited to the idea of using a baton (taken from [Downs Junior Music](#) - video of the game also available on this webpage)
- **GIMME ONE**
Different actions for numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and ‘break it down’ (this can be led by a child/YP if they feel confident) – works well on Zoom.
- **HEADS, SHOULDERS, KNEES AND TOES** (may need to be adapted)
- **MUSICAL STATUES** (can also be played on Zoom, if the sound is shared)
- **‘MUSICAL HOT POTATO’**
Sitting in a circle, play any song as the children/YP pass an egg shaker, ball or another prop around the circle to the beat. Pause the music at any point during the song: the student

holding the prop gets to answer your question of the day (e.g. What is your favourite animal / colour / food? Keep the game going to give other children/YP a chance to share (taken from [Music Together](#))

- **‘PROP-PASSING GAME’**

Use scarves/shaker eggs/soft toys etc. Sit in a circle, put on some music (or start singing!) and pass the object around the circle on the beat. Start with the song’s “big beat” (macrobeat), then try to divide it into the “small beat” (microbeat) and pass twice as many times per song measure. You can also try changing directions. (taken from [Music Together](#))

ADDITIONAL IDEAS/VIDEOS:

- <https://www.downsjuniormusic.com/warm-up-activities.html> (but may need to be adapted accordingly)
- <https://www.musictogether.com/musical-games> (but may need to be adapted accordingly)
- James Redwood’s list of Zoom games: